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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed October 31, 2007, which imposed a Restriction Requirement in the present application. Accordingly, Applicant makes the following election and requests that examination of the elected claims on their merits be promptly conducted in light of the following remarks.

Claim Status:

No amendments to the application are proposed by the present paper. All of the claims remain in their original form.

Election of Species:

In the latest Office Action, the Office alleges that the present application contains claims drawn to three independent and patentably distinct species. The species are identified by the Office Action as follows:

Species 1: Fig. 4

Species 2: Fig. 5

Species 3: Fig. 6.

In response, Applicant elects Species 1 for immediate examination.

The claims of the Application are allocated among the indicated species as follows.

Generic to all species: 1-3, 41-53

Claims specific to Species 1: 7-16, 25-29

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Claims specific to Species 2: 4-6, 17-24, 30-35

Claims specific to Species 3: 36-40

Thus, claims 1-3, 7-16, 25-29 and 41-53 are presented for further examination. All other original claims are labeled as "withdrawn" herein.

Applicant does not disclaim the subject matter of any withdrawn claim and reserves the right to file any number of continuation or divisional applications to the withdrawn claims or to any other subject matter described in the present application.

Applicant vehemently traverses this improper Election of Species. Applicant notes that all the claims, in precisely their present form, have already been searched and examined. An Office Action on *all the claims* was issued May 8, 2007. At that time, the Examiner presumably conducted a review of each claim and a thorough search of the relevant prior art with respect to each claim. The prior art identified was then applied in the Action of May 8, 2007. The claims have never been changed from the form in which they were originally examined.

According to the MPEP § 803, if the search and examination of claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine all of those claims on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions. Clearly, it would be unreasonable to do something, and then, after having already done it, claim that a serious burden exists to do what is already done. This, however, is the position taken in the current Office Action.

Applicant respectfully submits that when claims have already been searched and examined, there cannot be a "serious burden" to do what has already been done. Therefore,

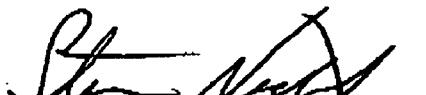
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under MPEP § 803, the present Election of Species is clearly improper and should be withdrawn.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



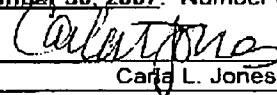
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Carla L. Jones